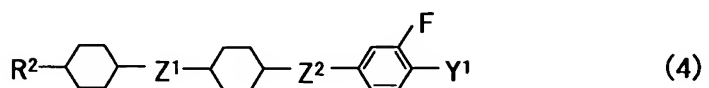
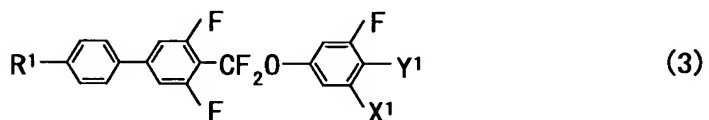
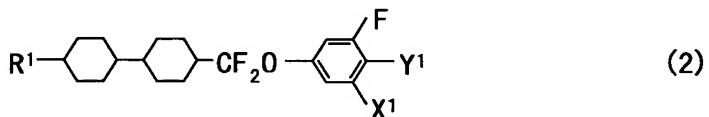
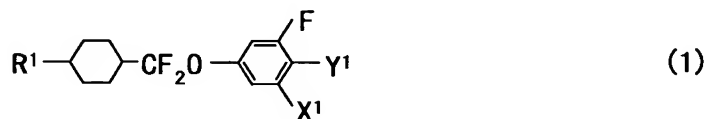


What is claimed is:

1. A liquid crystal composition comprising at least one compound selected from a group of compounds represented by formula (1) and formula (2) as a first component, at least one  
 5 compound selected from a group of compounds represented by formula (3) as a second component, and at least one compound selected from a group of compounds represented by formula (4) as a third component:



wherein  $R^1$  is alkyl;  $R^2$  is alkyl or alkenyl;  $Z^1$  and  $Z^2$  are  
 10 independently a single bond or  $-(\text{CH}_2)_2-$ ;  $X^1$  is hydrogen or fluorine; and  $Y^1$  is fluorine or  $-\text{OCF}_3$ .

2. The liquid crystal composition according to claim 1,  
 wherein the first component is in the range from 3% to 50% by weight, the second component is in the range from 5% to 40% by  
 15 weight, and the third component is in the range from 5% to 80% by weight, wherein each range is based on the total weight of the liquid crystal composition.

3. The liquid crystal composition according to claim 1, wherein the first component is at least one compound selected from a group of compounds represented by formula (1).

4. The liquid crystal composition according to claim 3, wherein the first component is in the range from 3% to 20% by weight, the second component is in the range from 5% to 40% by weight, and the third component is in the range from 5% to 80% by weight, wherein each range is based on the total weight of the liquid crystal composition.

5. The liquid crystal composition according to claim 4, wherein its optical anisotropy is in the range from 0.08 to 0.12.

6. The liquid crystal composition according to claim 1, wherein the first component is at least one compound selected from a group of compounds represented by formula (2).

7. The liquid crystal composition according to claim 6, wherein the first component is in the range from 3% to 30% by weight, the second component is in the range from 5% to 40% by weight, and the third component is in the range from 5% to 80% by weight, wherein each range is based on the total weight of the liquid crystal composition.

8. The liquid crystal composition according to claim 7, wherein its optical anisotropy is in the range from 0.08 to 0.12.

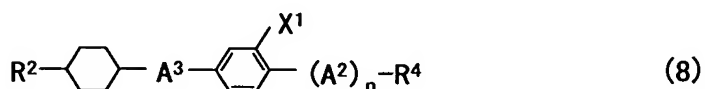
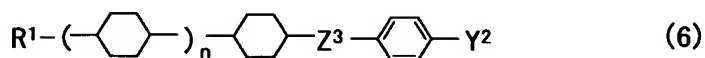
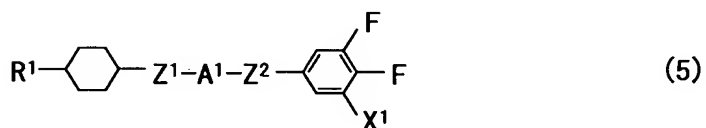
9. The liquid crystal composition according to claim 1, wherein the first component is at least one compound selected from a group of compounds represented by formula (1) and at

least one compound selected from a group of compounds represented by formula (2).

10. The liquid crystal composition according to claim 9, wherein the first component is in the range from 3% to 50% by weight, the second component is in the range from 5% to 40% by weight, and the third component is in the range from 5% to 80% by weight, wherein each range is based on the total weight of the liquid crystal composition.

11. The liquid crystal composition according to claim 10, wherein its optical anisotropy is in the range from 0.08 to 0.12.

12. The liquid crystal composition according to any one of claims 3 to 11, wherein it comprises further at least one compound selected from a group of the compounds represented by formulas (5), (6), (7), and (8) as a fourth component:



wherein  $R^1$  is alkyl;  $R^2$  is alkyl or alkenyl;  $R^3$  is alkyl or alkoxy;  $R^4$  is alkyl, alkoxy or alkoxymethyl;  $A^1$  and  $A^3$  are

independently 1,4-phenylene in which any hydrogen may be replaced by fluorine or 1,4-cyclohexylene;  $A^2$  is 1,4-phenylene or 1,4-cyclohexylene;  $Z^1$  and  $Z^2$  are independently a single bond or  $-(CH_2)_2-$ ;  $Z^3$  is a single bond or  $-COO-$ ; when  $A^1$  is 1,4-phenylene,  $X^1$  is fluorine, and when  $A^1$  is 1,4-phenylene in which any hydrogen may be replaced by fluorine,  $X^1$  is hydrogen or fluorine;  $Y^1$  is chlorine, fluorine or  $-OCF_3$ ; and  $n$  is 0 or 1.

13. The liquid crystal composition according to claim 12, wherein the fourth component is in the range from 1% to 70% by weight based on the total weight of the liquid crystal composition.

14. A liquid crystal display element comprising the liquid crystal composition according to any one of claims 3 to 11 and 13.

15. A liquid crystal display element comprising the liquid crystal composition according to claim 12.